

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ARA-10 EA-10 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00
CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00 ICAC-00
INRE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15
HA-05 TRSE-00 AID-05 OMB-01 /115 W
-----119500 060228Z /13

O 060200Z SEP 78

FM USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3199
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY GABORONE IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY LAGOS IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY MAPUTO IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY PARIS IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 USUN NEW YORK 03460

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PORG, UNSC, SF, WA
SUBJECT: NAMIBIA: CONTACT GROUP MEETING WITH FRONT LINE
REPS SEPTEMBER 5

SUMMARY: CONTACT GROUP MET WITH FRONT LINE REPS SEPT. 5.
FL MADE IT QUITE PLAIN THAT THEIR CHIEF CONCERN (AND THAT
OF SWAPO) WAS THE VOTER REGISTRATION ISSUE. IT WAS
IMPERATIVE THAT REGISTRATION PROCESS BE SEEN AS UNEQUIVO-
CALLY FAIR. WALDHEIM'S ASSURANCES TO DATE ON THIS
SCORE HAD NOT BEEN SUFFICIENT. FIVE RESPONDED THAT BEST
THEY COULD DO WAS INSIST THAT AHTISAARI SATISFY HIMSELF
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ON THIS ISSUE, BUT AGREED THAT REASSURING STATEMENT BY
WALDHEIM WAS IN ORDER. ONLY POINT OF REAL CONTENTION IN
VERY AMICABLE MEETING WAS QUESTION OF GRANTING RIGHT TO
SPEAK IN COUNCIL TO NNF AND DTA. FL STRONGLY OPPOSED.
FIVE ARGUED JUST AS STRONGLY THAT GRANTING PERMISSION FOR
THESE OTHER NAMIBIAN GROUPS TO SPEAK WOULD BE ESSENTIAL
TO PRESERVING COUNCIL'S IMPARTIALITY. END SUMMARY.

1. CONTACT GROUP MET WITH ZAMBIAN PRESIDENTIAL ASSISTANT CHONA, FOUR FRONT LINE PERMREPS AND A REP OF ANGOLA AT MOZAMBIKAN MISSION AFTERNOON SEPTEMBER 5. AMB MCHENRY BEGAN BY NOTING WHAT CONTACT GROUP CONSIDERED MOST CONTENTIOUS ISSUES ON THE PART OF BOTH SOUTH AFRICA AND SWAPO. MCHENRY SAID THAT THE SOUTH AFRICANS' CHIEF CONCERN SEEMED TO BE THE SIZE OF THE MILITARY COMPONENT. THEY WERE ALSO CONCERNED THAT THE UNTAG POLICE ELEMENT NOT HAVE "EXECUTIVE" DUTIES. SOUTH AFRICAN CONCERN ON THE DATE FOR ELECTIONS SEEMED MUTED. SWAPO'S CHIEF CONCERN SEEMED TO BE THE REGISTRATION ISSUE AND THE NEED FOR A FORMAL CEASEFIRE, PERHAPS ON A "SEPARATE PIECE OF PAPER". SWAPO DID NOT SEEM CONCERNED ABOUT THE SIZE OF THE MILITARY COMPONENT SO LONG AS IT DID NOT DROP BELOW 5,000. .. LLW

2. REGARDING THE SIZE OF THE MILITARY COMPONENT MCHENRY NOTED THAT THE SYG ARGUES THAT HE NEEDS A LARGE FORCE, ESPECIALLY FOR BORDER SURVEILLANCE. WALDHEIM HOWEVER HAS SAID THAT PERHAPS THERE COULD BE SOME CONDITIONS WHERE REDUCTIONS MIGHT BE POSSIBLE. ON REGISTRATION, CONTINUED MCHENRY, THE SYG HAD A NUMBER OF IDEAS ON HOW TO HANDLE THE ISSUE BUT THOUGHT IT NOT WISE TO GET INTO A DETAILED DEBATE ON THE ISSUE. WALDHEIM CONSIDERED THAT IF HE HAD TO NEGOTIATE ON THE FINE POINTS ON THE REGISTRATION

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PROCEDURE HERE IN NEW YORK HE WOULD THEN HAVE TO NEGOTIATE ON A FURTHER HOST OF DETAILED ISSUES. REGARDING THE POLICE ISSUE, THE SYG HAD NEVER INTENDED TO CHANGE THE PROPOSAL'S EMPHASIS THAT THE POLICE FUNCTION WOULD BE A MONITORING ONE. MCHENRY ENDED HIS BRIEF PRESENTATION BY NOTING THAT SWAPO WAS NOT THE ONLY NAMIBIAN GROUP IN TOWN AND HE BELIEVED THAT THE NNF AND THE DTA INTENDED TO SEEK PERMISSION TO ADDRESS THE SECURITY COUNCIL.

3. SPEAKING FOR THE FRONT LINE, AMBASSADOR SALIM (TANZANIA) SAID THAT MCHENRY'S ASSESSMENT OF THE POINTS OF CONTENTION TALLIED WITH THAT OF THE FRONT LINE. FOR THE FRONT LINE AND FOR SWAPO, HOWEVER, THE CHIEF CONCERN WAS REGISTRATION OF VOTERS. SALIM REPEATEDLY MADE THE POINT, BACKED UP BY CHONA AND OTHERS, THAT THERE MUST NOT EXIST A SINGLE ELEMENT OF SUSPICION IN THE ELECTION PROCESS. "NONE OF US", SALIM SAID, "CAN TAKE THE RISK OF BEING SEEN AS INNOCENT COLLABORATORS WITH THE SOUTH AFRICANS IF SOMETHING GOES WRONG. THE REGISTRATION PROCESS MUST ABSOLUTELY BE ABOVE SUSPICION." SALIM SAID THE FRONT LINE WAS NOT YET SATISFIED WITH WALDHEIM'S RESPONSES ON REGISTRATION.

4. SALIM SAID THAT, OTHER THAN THE REGISTRATION ISSUE, NO OTHER POINT SHOULD CAUSE UNDUE PROBLEMS FOR THE FRONT LINE. THEY DID CONSIDER THAT THE 360 MAN POLICE FORCE ENVISAGED WAS TOO SMALL. THEY THOUGHT THAT THE MODALITIES OF THE CEASEFIRE COULD BE WORKED OUT AND THEY WERE "NOT FUSSY" ON THE SIZE OF THE MILITARY COMPONENT AS LONG AS IT DID NOT GO BELOW THE "MAGIC NUMBER" OF 5,000. THEY ALSO WISHED TO REGISTER THEIR VIEW THAT IN SEEKING COOPERATION FROM NEIGHBORING STATES, AHTISAARI SHOULD NOT JUST LOOK TO ANGOLA AND ZAMBIA BUT ALSO TO SOUTH AFRICA. SALIM SAID ALSO THAT THE FRONT LINE SUPPORTED

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THE SYG'S POSITION ON FINANCING, I.E., THAT IT WAS THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE UNITED NATIONS TO BEAR THE COSTS. ANY OTHER FINANCING MECHANISM WOULD CLOUD THE FACT THAT NAMIBIA REMAINS AN INTERNATIONAL RESPONSIBILITY. SALIM CONCLUDED BY SAYING THAT THE FRONT LINE REPS HAD JUST HAD AN EXTREMELY POSITIVE AND CONSTRUCTIVE DISCUSSION WITH

SAM NUJOMA THAT MORNING.

5. ADDRESSING THE REGISTRATION ISSUE, CANADA (LAPOINTE) SAID THAT THE BEST THE FIVE COULD DO WAS TO INSIST THAT AHTISAARI SATISFY HIMSELF THAT THE REGISTRATION PROCEDURES WERE FAIR. UK (RICHARD) URGED THE FRONT LINE TO TALK TO
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AHTISAARI AND WALDHEIM ON THE ISSUE. CLEARLY, RICHARD SAID, A STATEMENT BY THE SYG ON THE REGISTRATION WOULD BE IN ORDER. CHONA AND SALIM WERE NOT ENTIRELY SATISFIED WITH THE WESTERN RESPONSE. THEY REITERATED THEIR SUSPICION WITH THE SOUTH AFRICANS AND EMPHASIZED THAT THE FAIRNESS OF THE REGISTRATION PROCESS WAS A FRONT LINE, NOT JUST A SWAPO, CONCERN. FOLLOWING THE ELECTIONS THERE COULD BE NO GROUNDS WHATSOEVER ON ANYONE'S PART TO CHARGE THAT THE PROCESS HAD NOT BEEN FAIR.

6. ASKED FOR HIS VIEWS ON NEXT STEPS, MCHENRY SAID THAT THE FIVE HOPED FOR A BRIEF, FORMAL MEETING OF THE COUNCIL AFTER ALL THE SUBSTANTIVE PROBLEMS HAD BEEN SOLVED. BEFORE THIS HAPPENED THE SYG WOULD HAVE TO DO SOMETHING WITH THE PRESENT WORDING ON POLICE FORCES, THERE WOULD HAVE TO BE A STATEMENT FROM HIM ON REGISTRATION AND THE DIFFERING VIEWS ON THE SIZE OF THE MILITARY COMPONENT WOULD HAVE TO BE RECONCILED. THE FIVE HOPED THAT THE RESOLUTION EMERGING FROM THE COUNCIL WOULD BE BRIEF BUT CLEARLY IT EITHER HAD TO ADDRESS THE CEASEFIRE ISSUE MORE SPECIFICALLY THAN HAD OTHER RESOLUTIONS OF THIS KIND OR THERE HAD TO BE A SEPARATE PIECE (OR PIECES) OF PAPER.

7. MCHENRY'S REITERATION THAT ALL NAMIBIAN PARTIES SHOULD BE ALLOWED TO SPEAK IN THE UPCOMING COUNCIL MEETING PROVOKED THE LONGEST AND MOST CONTENTIOUS EXCHANGE IN WHAT WAS THROUGHOUT AN AMICABLE MEETING. SALIM SAID FLATLY THAT THE FRONT LINE WOULD NOT ASSIST IN GAINING HEARINGS FOR THE NNF AND THE DTA. IN THE WEST CHOSE TO ENDORSE THE APPEARANCE BEFORE THE COUNCIL OF THESE TWO GROUPS, THE AFRICANS AND "OUR ALLIES ON THE COUNCIL" WOULD DEFEAT IT. THERE WOULD BE MUCH CONTENTION AND THE CAREFULLY STRUCTURED PROCESS THAT "WE HAVE ALL BEEN
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WORKING FOR" WOULD BE UPSET. MCHENRY AND OTHER MEMBERS OF THE CONTACT GROUP STRESSED THAT IT WAS IMPORTANT THAT THE UN NOT SHOW FAVORITISM. THE FIVE WERE NOT ENCOURAGING

OTHER GROUPS TO SPEAK BUT WOULD SUPPORT THEIR DOING SO IF REQUESTED. THE FIVE STRONGLY FELT THAT ANY NAMIBIAN GROUP SHOULD HAVE THE RIGHT TO SPEAK AND THAT THE TIME HAS TO COME WHEN SWAPO IS TREATED AS ANOTHER POLITICAL PARTY. A VITAL PRINCIPLE OF THE COUNCIL WAS AT STAKE. CHONA SAID HE WAS NERVOUS AT ANY NEEDLESS CONTENTION WHICH WOULD FURTHER DELAY THE COUNCIL MEETING. HE NOTED THAT ONLY SWAPO HAD FOUGHT THE LIBERATION STRUGGLE. THE NNF AND DTA WERE ONLY "COLLABORATORS WITH THE SOUTH AFRICANS." "YOU HAVE YOUR REALITIES", CHONA SAID, "OUR REALITY IS THAT WE CANNOT RECOGNIZE PEOPLE WHO HAVE BEEN SUPPORTED BY THE SOUTH AFRICANS". SALIM URGED THE CONTACT GROUP TO TRY AND DISSUADE THE TWO OTHER NAMIBIAN GROUPS FROM SPEAKING, ON THE GROUNDS THAT THEIR APPEARANCE IN THE COUNCIL COULD "TORPEDO" EVERYTHING. AFTER MCHENRY REMINDED THE GROUP THAT THE NNF WAS HARDLY A SOUTH AFRICAN COLLABORATOR, SALIM ENDED THE MEETING WITH ANOTHER PLEA TO THE FIVE TO TURN OFF COUNCIL APPEARANCES BY THESE TWO GROUPS. YOUNG

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